



TOWN OF DEERFIELD

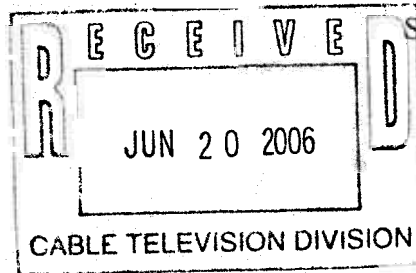
Board of Selectmen & Board of Health

8 Conway Street

South Deerfield MA 01373

Voice: 413.665.4645

Facsimile: 413.665.7275



June 9, 2006

Andrea Nixon, Clerk
Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Nixon:

The Town of Deerfield would like to register its opposition to Verizon's March 16, 2006, rulemaking petition filed with the DTE's Cable Division. Verizon's petition proposes new cable licensing rules that are unacceptable.

There is no reason to set aside the current, familiar, tested rules for licensing. The current licensing timetables have worked well for decades and Verizon's attempt to change the rules is simply an attempt to gain a competitive advantage over other providers and weaken a community's ability to negotiate. Keep in mind that the median size of a community in Massachusetts is about 10,000 people and managed by a part-time Board of Selectmen with a small number of staff, if any. The accelerated schedule proposed by Verizon is a blatant attempt to put these communities at a disadvantage in negotiating. Smaller towns, in fact most communities simply will not have the resources to negotiate, draft and issue a license within the timeframes Verizon is requesting.

Municipal officials need to have sufficient opportunity and information to make decisions on behalf of the citizens they serve. The Verizon proposal works against a fair and reasonable licensing process and may lead to demands by other providers to abrogate existing agreements to the further detriment of municipalities. The Town of Deerfield urges the DTE Cable Division to reject the Verizon petition and maintain the present licensing process.

Sincerely,

Bernard R. Kubiak, MPPA
Interim Town Administrator